

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 983

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS AGAINST FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE TURNER

1. LOCAL PRESS ON MARCH 21 CARRIED CANADIAN PRESS ITEM FROM TORONTO STATING THAT CBC APOLOGIZED THURSDAY NIGHT FOR MARCH 19 NEWSCASTS WHICH SAID THAT FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE JOHN TURNER HAD BEEN MENTIONED BY THE RCMP IN A REPORT DEALING WITH AN INVESTIGATION IN 1970.

2. ON MARCH 20 WHILE VISITING ACADIA UNIVERSITY AT WOLFVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA, TURNER SAID THAT HE WAS DISTURBED TWO NIGHTS BEFORE COMING TO WOLFVILLE THAT A HALIFAX TELEVISION STATION SHOULD HAVE "LINKED" HIM WITH ALLEGED BRIBERY CHARGES IN 1965 AND 1970. TURNER SAID, " I'M GEETING A LITTLE TIRED OF SOME OF THE INNUENDOES THAT ARE BEING PLAYED ON THE NATIONAL SCENE WHICH IS POISONING OUR PUBLIC LIFE."

3. TURNER WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THE CBC RETRACTION "WAS SATISFACTORY IN SCOPE." HE SAID, "WE WILL LOOK AT IT, BUT I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT UNLESS THE CBC AND THE CANADIAN PRESS WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE A FIGHT ON THEIR HANDS." MANBEY

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